



FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

Bulletin

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ARKANSAS NATIVE WINS NATIONAL WETLANDS CONSERVATION AWARD

Nancy Spargo DeLamar of Little Rock has been selected to receive the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Conservation Award for her achievements in helping to conserve critically important wetlands habitat in her home state of Arkansas. DeLamar is a Vice President of The Nature Conservancy and State Director for the Conservancy's Arkansas Field Office.

Her recent selection for the award was acknowledged by President Bill Clinton, in a letter dated June 16, 1993. "This award is wonderful recognition of the hard work you've done over the years to protect the wetlands of the Cache, Bayou DeView and Lower White rivers. I'm proud of you and of the conservation efforts that you have made in Arkansas in recent years. You deserve high praise for your commitment to preserving this most important part of our beloved state."

DeLamar is scheduled to receive the award at the June 30, 1993, ceremony to kick off sales of the 1993-94 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp). The ceremony will be held at 10:00 a.m. in the Department of the Interior auditorium, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

DeLamar is being honored for her efforts in support of the 1992 Arkansas-Idaho Land Exchange Act, which resulted in the protection of 41,000 acres of bottomland hardwood wetlands in Arkansas' Mississippi Alluvial Valley. As the last remaining example of this type of bottomland hardwood ecosystem, which once dominated the 24 million-acre Lower Mississippi Valley, the area has been designated a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention.

It is also the geographic centerpiece of the Cache/Lower White Rivers Joint Venture Project of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The Plan is an international effort

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by the United States, Canada and Mexico to restore North America's migratory waterfowl by the year 2000. Ten percent of the mallard population of the Mississippi Flyway winters in these Arkansas wetlands.

DeLamar was successful in working with the Arkansas Congressional delegation; the Potlatch Corporation, owners of the Arkansas lands involved in the Arkansas-Idaho land exchange; the state legislature; the Office of the Governor; state and federal agencies; and private organizations and individuals involved in the development and promotion of the land exchange.

Bringing these wetlands under federal ownership will prevent fragmentation of the remaining forest, which will benefit many wildlife species, including neotropical migratory birds, waterfowl and black bears. It will also facilitate integrated management of the entire ecosystem to benefit the full range of the area's diverse biological resources.